



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Climate Change and Social Protection Policy Consultant

Contract duration: 7 months (with the possibility of extension)

Vacancy No. IRC3656

Deadline for Applications: 31 October 2016

Duty station: Rome, Italy

Division/Department: Agricultural Development Economics (ESA)/ Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division (ESP)

Expected Start date of the Assignment: As soon as possible

Tasks and responsibilities:

Climate change threatens the objective of sustainably eradicating poverty. Poor people in hazard prone countries are exposed to climate-related natural disasters threatening assets and livelihoods. Heat waves, droughts, floods, pest and diseases lead to crop failures and cause spikes in food prices and loss of livelihoods. Through its impacts on agriculture, Climate Change has severe negative implications for **food security** in all its dimensions: availability, access, utilization and stability. In principle, households can use a range of **private instruments** to cope with the consequences of these shocks. They can draw on their savings, borrow from a bank or cooperative, rely on formal or informal community-based insurance, benefit from domestic or international remittances, and sometimes buy private insurance. However, there is only so much these instruments can achieve. For large-scale events, entire communities are affected, making informal and community-based risk-sharing mechanisms less effective. Thus, long term actions aimed at **lowering socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change impacts** (i.e. national social assistance programme) are of paramount important **to reduce poverty in rural areas and achieve food security**. Some of these policy actions are pure households-level measures whereas others have a much broader scope and can include national and transactional policies, setting up systems and long term programmes able to impact on all the disaster management cycles phases while also promoting sustainable agricultural practices and productivity.

The **scale-up of national shock responsive social protection systems** falls into this second category. Access to predictable, regular and scalable social protection systems is a crucial strategy to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate related shocks. In the short-term, social protection allows for the **protection of poor households from the negative impacts of shocks**, including erosion of productive assets, while **minimizing the resort to negative coping practices**. In the longer term, this can **help to build capacity, smooth consumption, and allow for investments that contribute to building resilience** of people to future threats and crisis.

This study focuses on **potential actions** that can be taken in two sectors deeply related to social protection policies, where climate-related impacts on food security and poverty are especially important: **agriculture** and **disaster risk management**. Given the complexity of interactions among the different outcomes and policy options, this study focus primarily on four items namely (i) Social Protection, (ii) Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) including natural resource management (NRM), (iii) Early Warning/Early Action (EWEA), forecast based financing (FBF) and (iv) Weather Index Insurance, focusing on sub-Saharan Africa with the possibility of using key evidence from other regions (Asia and Latin America). The study will build upon the existing literature in order to help governments, practitioners and development agencies improving poor people's resilience to climate change related shocks.

To this end and under the general supervision of Solomon Asfaw, Economist (ESA) and Natalia Winder Rossi, Senior Social protection Officer (ESP), the consultant will contribute to the work under Strategic Programme 3 (reducing rural poverty) and 5 (strengthening resilience) by undertaking a synthesis of the main evidence existing

in the literature drawing key findings and a set of recommendations, plus identifying evidence gaps for further research, while also defining an operational framework for action. It will provide particular emphasis on social protection policies with the intention of identifying how social protection and other climate risk management policies may fulfil each other's objectives at household level. The consultant will:

1. Review of the evidence to provide guidance on how to define a mix of interventions to enhance the resilience of communities in the face of negative impacts of climate
2. Address some of the key policy and operational questions including:
 - a. how these policy options may improve the resilience of farming systems in the face of climate shocks (*ex-ante* risk management strategies), and how these options might be designed to mitigate the effects of climate shocks after they have occurred (*ex-post* coping strategies);
 - b. assess potential responses at the household/farm level vs. responses at the system-wide/government level. Some of these policy options may, for example, affect farmers' willingness or ability to adopt management practices that promote income stability or other forms of resilience in the face of extreme weather events. On the other hand, these policy options may also be designed in ways that encourage the usage of drought-tolerant seeds or other system-wide changes that promote resilience;
 - c. shade light on the operational challenges of linking early warning systems with social protection MIS
 - d. promoting sustainable agriculture practices through public works or other social protection interventions; and finally
 - e. synthesize the potential synergies and trade-off between these different policy levers and what need to be done to maximize the synergies and limit the trade-off.
3. Develop tools for integrating climate risk managements instruments into national agricultural policies and programs

Based on this study, FAO will be better positioned to technically advise policy-making processes, programme design, and participate in global discussions around policies for climate risk management.

Key performance indicators	
Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
Under the overall supervision of FAO staff, Solomon Asfaw, Economist (ESA), and Natalia Winder-Rossi, Senior Social Protection officer (ESP), the Consultant will be responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a detailed outline for discussion with FAO; 	15 Nov. 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake desk research to review existing literature and document the main policy levers in relation to climate risk management and extend the synthesis to understand the synergies and trade-off between the different options and assess how to maximize the synergies and potential options to address the trade-offs; 	15 January 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a draft scoping paper (max 20 pages excluding annexes) detailing the findings of the review together with framework for action (policy and programmatic) 	15 February 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address FAO's comments and suggestions and finalize the report; 	15 March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce tool and policy briefs based on the final report 	15 June 2017

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

Minimum Requirements

- Master's or doctorate degree in environmental economics, public policy with a focus on climate change and social protection
- Strong policy skills, particularly in terms of resource climate change adaptation
- Solid familiarity with climate change adaptation/resilience literature including social protection instruments, resilience metrics and policy frameworks

- Excellent writing skills and oral presentation in English
- Demonstrated experience in producing high quality reports and policy papers

Additional Information

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

All candidates should adhere to FAO values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency.

How to apply

All applications are to be made through FAO's [iRecruitment](#) system. Click on the link below to access [iRecruitment](#), complete your online profile and apply for this Call for Expression of Interest.

<http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/>

In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of your iRecruitment account are completed. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: iRecruitment@fao.org